

Environmental Management

A Periodic Update on Rocky Flats Cleanup



December/January 93-94

EG&G ROCKY FLATS

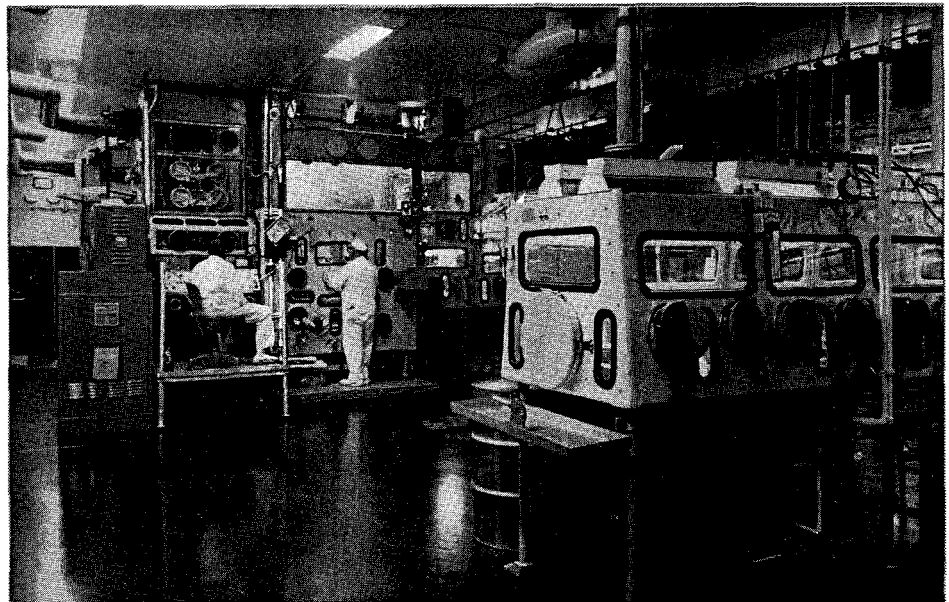
WASTE MANAGEMENT: Planning for Tomorrow

Waste Management Planning Program Formed

The Comprehensive Waste Management Planning Program has been formed to address existing waste management concerns and ensure that adequate facilities are available to support the new site mission well into the future. The primary objective of this program is to develop the *Comprehensive Waste Management Plan*.

This plan will address existing treatment, storage and disposal requirements for wastes generated at Rocky Flats and develop alternative strategies for managing these wastes in compliance with applicable requirements. It will also project storage and disposal capabilities and requirements for future waste generation.

In addition, this plan marks the first attempt to bring together waste management needs for all plant



As part of the change in mission, buildings containing gloveboxes such as those shown here, will need to be treated as waste.

programs and to work together in identifying priorities extending out over the next twenty years.

Transition and Waste Management

Rocky Flats has been in transition for more than a year now, with a mission focusing on environmental

Continued on page 2

515 BARRIERS RECENTLY IDENTIFIED

Rocky Flats was once again the subject of an extensive review, only this time in conjunction with the entire Department of Energy complex. The Department of Energy Office of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management recently conducted a study of Environmental Management project performance across the complex, focusing on environmental remediation and waste management projects. This comprehensive study

was intended to measure the current status of the Environmental Management project system and to provide a baseline for measuring improvement.

Room For Improvement

The scope of the study covered project development and execution, from project definition through the completion of construction. These

Continued on page 6

in this issue

Waste Management.....	1
Barriers Identified.....	1
What is InfoSource?.....	2
Waste Ships to Nevada.....	3
IA Update.....	4
Upcoming Public Meetings	7
Reading Rooms.....	7

restoration, waste management, and planning for alternate uses. Although the site is no longer a production facility, the new mission has some ambitious goals and will continue well into the next century.

As a result of production activities over the past forty years, Rocky Flats currently manages the largest number of regulated waste storage units in all of Colorado. This includes radioactive, hazardous, "mixed" (those containing both radioactive and hazardous constituents), and sanitary wastes. Each waste category carries its own set of storage, treatment and disposal requirements.

In addition to the current inventory, wastes will be generated in the future as a result of building surveillance and maintenance, cleanup activities, building deactivation, and residue treatment. These, too, must be managed according to regulations established by the Atomic Energy Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

Developing A Plan

Developing a comprehensive waste plan is no easy task since a number of other major efforts must be involved in the planning process. For example, Special Nuclear Material consolidation is an ongoing process and until a final decision is made regarding ultimate disposition of these materials, facilities must be identified and set aside at the plant to effectively manage and store these materials.

As part of this effort, technology development is moving along at a rapid pace in an effort to identify, develop, and test technologies for both cleanup and waste management. Projects like polymer encapsulation or microwave solidification require state-of-the-art laboratory space and analytical support to continue their research efforts.

Economic conversion is yet another option in the site's future. Which facilities have potential for

commercialization, and should it occur? A pilot project is just beginning at Rocky Flats to determine the feasibility of commercialization of several buildings.

Good Management

Addressing all these issues is an essential part of good management for today and tomorrow. The Comprehensive Waste Management Planning Program has established a team to bring together representatives of major site programs. The team is working together to develop a number of waste management options, which will then be evaluated against criteria such as cost, schedule, risk analysis and regulatory requirements. The end result will be a plan with a recommended course of action to address all competing interests.

Future Direction

The initial *Comprehensive Waste Management Plan* will be delivered to the Colorado Department of Health on October 1, 1994, and will focus on waste storage needs. However, this will be an evolving document that will be regularly updated to address the changing face of Rocky Flats.

EG&G Community Relations and technical managers will be providing information to the community as the plan develops, and opportunities will be announced for public participation in this effort. In the meantime, if you would like additional details, please contact: Carla Sanda

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InfoSource

What is InfoSource?

Rocky Flats Public InfoSource is a pilot project set up by EG&G Environmental Restoration Management, Program Integration and Reporting and EG&G Community Relations at the request of the Department of Energy, Rocky Flats Office. This system allows you to electronically connect to a variety of information sources. The current contents include:

- Index of documents in the Rocky Flats Reading Room located in the Front Range Community College Library
- Listing of Community Relations personnel and their telephone numbers
- Listing of metro area information repositories and reading rooms
- Listing of other government bulletin board systems
- Listing of upcoming public meetings and various documents concerning the environmental restoration of Rocky Flats Plant.

How Do I Connect?

If you already access other computers, calling and connecting to InfoSource is easy. To connect, all you need is a personal computer and a modem. Use your communications software package to dial InfoSource at (303) 966-9103 then set your system to the following:

Parity = NONE

Data Bits = 8

Stop Bit = 1 or N, 8, 1

Next, set your terminal emulation to ANSI and VT-100 and set the modem speed at 300 to 9600 baud. You can

Continued on page 5

Waste Shipments to Nevada Test Site Resume

U.S. Department of Energy's Rocky Flats site began shipping low-level radioactive waste to the Nevada Test Site the week of February 14, 1994 for disposal (see August/September 1993 issue for previous report). These shipments are expected to occur monthly and last for several years.

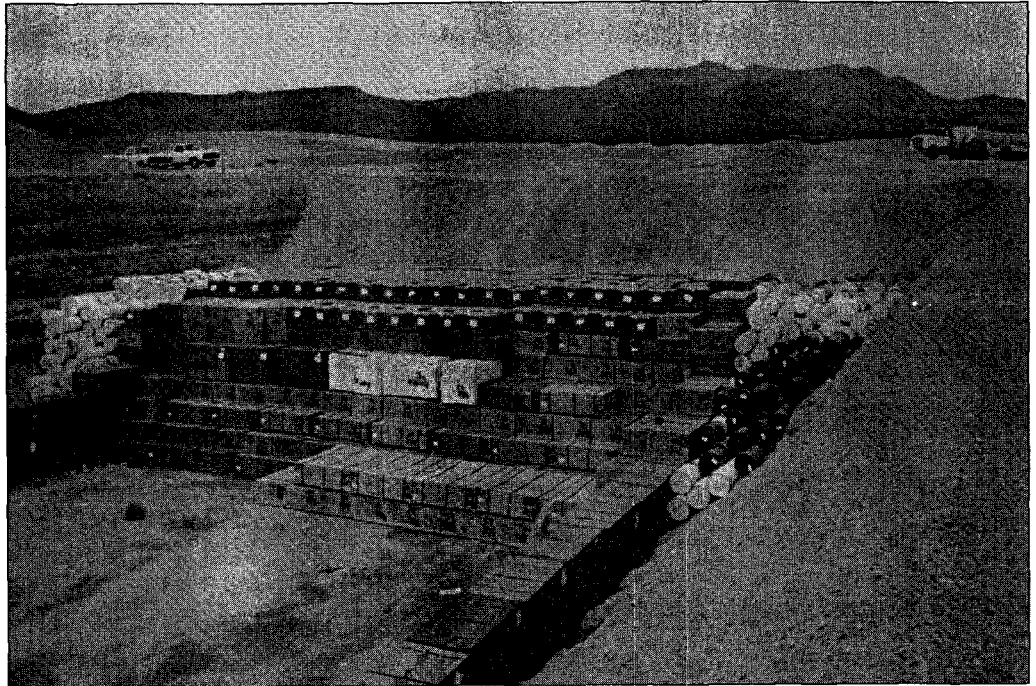
What is Low-Level Waste?

Low-level waste is defined as containing up to 100 nanocuries (billionths of a curie) of radioactivity per gram of waste. The total radioactivity for the first shipment to the Nevada Test Site will reach about 10 nanocuries. This low-level waste could include paper, clothing, tools and glassware that have been contaminated throughout building operations and processes.

"This is an important milestone for the site. Offsite disposal of these low-level wastes is vital to the site's ongoing environmental cleanup efforts," said Tim Hedahl, EG&G Rocky Flats' Associate General Manager for Environmental and Waste Management. "Permission to resume shipments of low-level waste follows an extensive, successful review of our procedures, waste characterization activities and management systems."

First Shipment

The first shipment of waste was sent in two trucks containing a total of 104 drums of waste from Building 707. Subsequent shipments may possibly involve waste from some 20 different buildings on site. Rocky Flats has been authorized to ship ten categories of low-level waste which include dry combustibles, light metal, wet combustibles, insulation, plastic, glass, prefilters, benelex and plexiglas.



Nevada Test Site storage area. Shipments of straight low-level radioactive waste from Rocky Flats begins February, 1994.

Low-level waste makes up more than half of the radioactive waste generated at Rocky Flats. Waste shipments to Nevada were suspended after a July 1990 audit. Low-level waste shipments from Building 559 resumed in June 1992. Last fall, the site passed a subsequent audit, indicating that the site had met the strict requirements to resume shipments to the disposal site. Final authorization for these shipments was received in late January.

Evaluation, Certification, Accountability

The Nevada Test Site audit evaluated several areas of the site's comprehensive waste certification and characterization program including inspection and calibration procedures, and the process for handling, tracking and preparation of the waste packages for shipment.

An accountability system is in place that holds Rocky Flats and the commercial carrier transporting the waste responsible until the shipment reaches Nevada. The shipments are checked prior to departure from Rocky Flats and once again upon arrival at the Nevada Test Site.

FEEDBACK

Let us know what you think about this Update.

Fax or mail your comments, questions or suggestions to:

FAX: (303) 966-6153

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Step 1 Completed: Development of 22 Draft Principles

On February 2, 1994, the Department of Energy, the Colorado Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency came together at a public meeting to present, discuss and accept comments from the general public on the 22 draft principles affecting the re-evaluation of the Interagency Agreement at the Rocky Flats site.

The current Interagency Agreement was signed in January 1991, under the old plant mission of production and with scarce environmental data. Since that time, the mission of the plant has drastically changed and more environmental information is readily available. It is for these reasons that the Department of Energy requested a review of the Interagency Agreement.

Throughout the re-evaluation of the agreement, there will be various opportunities for the public to become involved in the process. Information will be made available through this newsletter and advertisements of public meetings in the *Rocky Mountain News*, the *Denver Post* and the *Boulder Daily Camera*.

For more information regarding the Interagency Agreement re-evaluation, please contact Toni Moore of EG&G Community Relations, 966-6616.

Draft Principles

1. Negotiations will work toward an IA that considers the mission of Rocky Flats, which is "Manage waste and materials, clean up and convert the Rocky Flats site to beneficial use in a manner that is safe, environmentally and socially responsible, physically secure, and cost-effective."
2. Within the scope of the agreement, control of higher risks will be given priority, emphasizing and ensuring public and worker health and safety, and environmental protection.
3. The IA will remain essentially a remediation document. However, any issues that have the potential to impede the cleanup of the plant will be subject to negotiations.
4. A revised agreement must define and reflect a firm commitment by DOE to implement the agreement, a firm fiscal commitment, direct and meaningful CDH and EPA involvement in the budget development process, and specified management improvements. Any revised or new schedule must be coordinated with firm DOE fiscal commitments.
5. The three principals (EPA Regional Administrator, Director for the Office of Environment at Colorado Department of Health and Rocky Flats Manager) enter IA negotiations with the same level of authority that binds their respective agencies.
6. The public will be involved in identifying areas within the present agreement in need of improvement and in setting goals for a revised cleanup approach at Rocky Flats. Increased stakeholder involvement in the work scope development, prioritization, schedule and budget process is required to develop an understanding of the public's desires. The Citizens Advisory Board should be utilized to coordinate stakeholder involvement, such as creation of a focus group encompassing all interested community groups.
7. Planning assumptions must be agreed upon by all parties. Comprehensive work scope, schedule, and cost estimates will be the basis for schedule discussions and milestone establishment in the IA. Regulators will be meaningfully involved in the development of the scope, schedules, and costs associated with IA implementation.
8. The agreement should allow flexibility to accomplish efficient cleanup at Rocky Flats. It must remain an effective enforcement vehicle. Negotiations should accommodate flexibility while retaining some milestone schedule framework.
9. The issues identified by the Quality Action Team (QAT) must have action plans and schedules for resolution prior to negotiations. All parties recognize that early efforts on these issues will facilitate effective and efficient negotiations.
10. The agreement should allow the opportunity for involvement by CDH and EPA in formal controls including formal baseline change control processes.
11. Recognizing that future site use and cleanup are closely intertwined, risk assessment and risk management will be appropriately considered during negotiations.
12. A revised agreement should define an improved and accelerated cleanup program at Rocky Flats. New streamlined processes should be used wherever possible.
13. The Rocky Flats Plant is a National Priority List site subject to CERCLA and RCRA, and

Continued on page 5

- therefore it is recognized that the scope of the agreement will increase. The degree and extent of how the RCRA and CERCLA processes are applied to specific buildings, structures, materials and equipment will be subject to negotiations.
14. Prior to negotiation of revised schedules and milestones, procedures and regulations applicable to the activities covered by the agreement will be reviewed by DOE with the ultimate goal of achieving consensus among the parties regarding the elimination of those that add no value or unnecessarily delay the clean-up process. This review process will be conducted with participation of regulatory agencies and stakeholders.
 15. The goal for the IA negotiations is not to exceed 4 months. However, it will allow adequate time for public involvement, and all three agencies are committed to taking enough time to negotiate an effective IA.
 16. Waste storage issues, including a schedule for expansion of permitted interim waste storage, must be resolved prior to negotiating revised schedules and milestones.
 17. EG&G or current contractors, must be held accountable to all parties for implementing the revised agreement.
 18. Long-term storage of off-site wastes will not be allowed at the Rocky Flats Plant, except as specifically approved by CDH and EPA through orders, permits or agreements, such as those pursuant to Federal Facility Compliance Act requirements. The use of limited quantities of wastes from other sites for technology development will be subject to CDH and EPA approval.
 19. The existing IAG will remain in effect, including all procedural and penalty components, until specifically superseded by a revised and executed final IA. During the negotiation period, EPA and CDH may continue to assess stipulated penalties within terms of the present agreement, and DOE may dispute such assessment, pursuant to the IA.
 20. DOE must continue to conduct necessary inspections of all radioactive, hazardous, and mixed wastes stored at Rocky Flats Plant to assure safety and proper management. Any issues regarding the proper management of mixed residues will be addressed in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the Residue Agreements.
 21. D&D, transition, economic development, and waste management all potentially impact successful implementation of the IA. A common understanding of the concepts and impacts must be established at the beginning of negotiations.
 22. Interim relief for DOE on milestone schedules and other compliance issues related to the IA must be accompanied by DOE schedule commitments on short and long-term issues, such as full compliance with RCRA and CHWA, cleanup, removal of stored waste from Rocky Flats site, decommissioning completion, etc. DOE must affirm the Administration's commitment to requesting full funding for the IA requirements after the interim relief period (2-3 years).*

* NOTE: DOE Rocky Flats Office must discuss this principle with DOE headquarters before agreement can be attained.

InfoSource Tech - Continued from page 2

use whichever communications software you prefer, as long as it allows N, 8, 1 line settings. If you are unsure about your software compatibility, consult your computer and communications software manuals.

After you have connected to InfoSource, the first screen will ask new users to sign in. InfoSource will ask a few questions and optional information. If you are using a Macintosh computer, answer NO to ANSI graphics and for MS-DOS users, answer NO to color menus. This will

allow the screens to scroll faster. Whether using a Macintosh or MS-DOS system, you will receive the same quality of service.

Taking Part

After you have had an opportunity to explore InfoSource, please send comments, questions, problems or suggestions about InfoSource via E-Mail to the Project Administrator, Sivia Rosenberg. We are especially interested in hearing what additional features you would like to see on InfoSource. To request specific

documents or information, a request form is available on the Bulletin Board System for download.

If you have technical problems or questions, please leave an E-Mail message on InfoSource to the System Operator (SYSOP), Calvin Cline. If you have questions about Rocky Flats, please call Community Relations at (303) 966-5754.

We hope that you find InfoSource useful and look forward to your input.

measurements were then compared to similar projects from other government agencies and the private sector. The result: an overall determination that on the average, DOE-EM projects, including the 881 Hillside at Rocky Flats, have experienced poorer performance than remediation projects in other government and commercial sectors. The analysis, presented on November 30, 1993, identified the following:

- DOE costs for equivalent work is higher than industry norms
- DOE's higher costs are a function of high project management costs and project system practices
- Cost growth in DOE projects is a result of poor project definition and obtaining regulatory agreement

Stand-Down Ordered

As a result of this study, Thomas Grumbly, Assistant Secretary of Environmental Management at the Department of Energy initiated a complex wide stand-down, January 26 - 27, 1994. The purpose of this stand-down was to identify ways to improve the environmental project management system by finding solutions to

performance barriers in the current system. The primary target areas for improvement are:

- Cost-effectiveness
- Efficiency
- Framework for measuring, monitoring and controlling Environmental Management projects
- Identification of appropriate contracting mechanisms
- Improved Department of Energy ability to carry-out project management functions
- Communication and stakeholder involvement in the Environmental Management project process

Phase I of this initiative was a brainstorming session January 18, 1994, with employees from the Department of Energy Rocky Flats Office, Rocky Flats site, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Colorado Department of Health, and community stakeholders to identify barriers to successful environmental project management. The brainstorming session resulted in the identification of 515 barriers to project success.

Phase II was the January 26 - 27, 1994 stand-down in which participants analyzed the barriers identified during

the brainstorming session, proposed solutions and created proposed action plans.

Real Work to Begin

The major challenge facing Rocky Flats will be to effectively implement the action plans established during the stand-down. Activities included are:

- Establishing specific performance measurements to ensure that we are on track to success and that we meet the goals of the Assistant Secretary.
- Developing a validation system to ensure that the action plans adequately address and resolve the performance issue.
- Transferring the techniques and lessons learned from construction projects to address broader program activities.

In the end, the techniques that lead to project success at Rocky Flats will be transferable to the operation and closure of operable units, decommissioning activities, and determination and resolution of site release level issues.

For more information regarding the Department of Energy stand-down, please contact Toni Moore of EG&G Community Relations, 966-6616.

Coming Next Issue:

- Status on Operable Unit 4 - Solar Evaporator Ponds: Where are we now? Status of sludge removal from the ponds and the upcoming public comment period.
- Update on Operable Unit 16 - Low Priority Sites Proposed Plan: Public comment period has ended. The next step: Record of Decision.
- Mixed Waste Symposium to be held in Denver, Colorado. Ever wonder what various incineration and thermal treatment options are being considered for clean-up and waste management at not only Rocky Flats but throughout the Department of Energy complex?
- Regular features including the Interagency Agreement Update and Upcoming Public Meetings.

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

- March 15** Health Advisory Panel Technical Work Session - Contact: Ann Lockhart 692-2640
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., location to be determined
- March 16** Health Advisory Panel Technical Work Session - Contact: Ann Lockhart 692-2640
8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m., location to be determined
- March 16** Health Advisory Panel Technical Work Session - Contact: Ann Lockhart 692-2640
7:00 p.m., Ramada Hotel (tentative)
- March 17** Health Advisory Panel Technical Work Session - Contact: Ann Lockhart 692-2640
8:30 a.m. - noon, location to be determined
- March 23** Quarterly Environmental Restoration Meeting - Contact: Toni Moore 966-6616
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Denver Marriott West, 1717 Denver West Marriott Blvd., Golden
- March 29** Environmental Surveillance Exchange of Information Meeting - Contact: Pat Etchart, 966-6428
1:30 p.m., Broomfield City Council Chamber, No. 6 Garden Office Center, Broomfield

Public Invited to Use Reading Rooms

The following reading rooms contain current information, technical reports, and reference documents on environmental restoration at the Rocky Flats Plant:

Rocky Flats Plant Reading Room*

Front Range Community College Library

3645 West 112th Avenue
Level B, Center of Building
Westminster, Colorado 80030
(303) 469-4435

Hours:

Monday - Tuesday 10:30 am - 6:30 pm
Wednesday 10:30 am - 4:00 pm
Thursday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Citizen's Advisory Board

1536 Cole Boulevard, Suite 325
Denver West Office Park, Building 4
Golden, Colorado 80401
(303) 232-1966

Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

EPA Superfund Records Center*

999 18th Street, Suite 500
Denver, Colorado 80202-2405
(303) 293-1807

Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Colorado Department of Health*

Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division

4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Bldg. A
Denver, Colorado 80222-1530
(303) 692-3312

Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Standley Lake Library

8485 Kipling Street
Arvada, Colorado 80005
(303) 423-4600

Hours:

Monday - Friday 10:00 am - 9:00 pm
Friday - Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

United States Department of Energy Freedom of Information and Privacy Branch Office

1000 Independence Avenue, S. W.
Washington, D.C. 20585
(202) 586-6025

Hours:

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
(Eastern Time Zone)

*Information Repository



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